

Question for written answer E-004857/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
Piotr Müller (ECR)

Subject: Remondis Group's serial acquisition strategy and the application of Article 102 TFEU

According to media reports, the German Federal Cartel Office (the national competition regulatory agency) has for the first time exercised its new 'call-in' powers, requiring the Remondis Group to notify it of any future transactions, regardless of turnover thresholds.

This was justified by the group's long-standing practice of systematically acquiring numerous small waste management companies, the cumulative effects of which may lead to a restriction of competition.

Similar processes can also be observed in other Member States.

In the Netherlands, Remondis has been expanding its activities for years through a series of local acquisitions, including the assets of TSR Recycling Nederland (a Remondis group company specialising in metal recycling) and smaller operators excluded from larger industry transactions.

In Poland, the group has acquired municipal companies and local enterprises in many provinces, leading to strong regional concentration despite the absence of a notification requirement.

In Austria, the Czech Republic and Slovakia, Remondis is acquiring small recycling plants and municipal operators, mainly through subsidiaries (including TSR RN), in transactions that fall outside the scope of national merger control.

Since individual acquisitions are not subject to notification and their cumulative effect may also affect the market structure across borders, the question arises as to whether there is potential abuse of a dominant position within the meaning of Article 102 TFEU.

In light of the above:

1. Is the Commission monitoring the cumulative effects of such acquisitions by Remondis?
2. Could such a strategy constitute an abuse of a dominant position by Remondis despite the lack of notifications?
3. Will the Commission undertake analytical or investigative measures, including a sector inquiry, in relation to these acquisitions?

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